

Georgia Board of Massage Therapy

Frequently Asked Questions

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| Q1. I am certified by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBMTB) or other certifying agency, do I need a license in Georgia to practice? | Q10. Are there Continuing Education requirements for Massage Therapist? |
| Q2. I hold a current Massage Therapy license in another state. Can I practice in Georgia? | Q11. How much does it cost to obtain a license? |
| Q3. I hold a current license to practice as a Massage Therapist in another state. Can I become licensed in Georgia? | Q12. Do I have to place my Massage Therapy License where it visible to the public? |
| Q4. How do I find out if I am eligible for a Georgia license? | Q13. What constitutes an "Official School Transcript"? |
| Q5. What if I don't meet the requirements to become licensed in the state of Georgia, what do I do? | Q14. What is a "Board Recognized Massage Therapy Education Program"? |
| Q6. How can I verify issuance of my license prior to actual receipt, or, check on the status of my application for licensure? | Q15. Does the Georgia Massage Therapy Board require applicants take and pass an exam on the professions law (Georgia Massage Therapy practice Act O.C.G.A. 43-24A)? |
| Q7. How can I change my email, physical and/or mailing address? | Q16. Is there a competency licensure or certification exam required by the Board? |
| Q8. How can I change my name on my license? | Q17. How can I contact the Board? |
| Q9. If I lose my pocket card, how can I receive a duplicate? | Q18. Does the Board offer a "provisional" or "Temporary" license or permit? |
| | Q19. How do I obtain the required Background Check for my application for licensure? |

PLEASE NOTE:

The Massage Therapy website, www.sos.ga.gov/plb/massage contains links to substantial information regarding Licensure, Renewal, Board Rules, Georgia Law (pertaining to Massage Therapists) and much more.

Please visit the site to assist you in providing answers to most of your frequently asked questions, and for the most up to date information regarding Board rules.

- (1). **Yes, you must hold an active license issued by the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy in order to practice as a massage therapist in Georgia.**
- (2). **No, you must hold an active license issued by the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy in order to practice as a massage therapist in Georgia.**

- (3). Yes, if the state where you are currently licensed has licensure requirements that are equal to or greater than the Georgia requirements, you may apply for licensure in Georgia by Endorsement.
- (4). Please refer to the website www.sos.ga.gov/plb/massage for links to the board rules, Georgia Law, along with all forms and applications.

The application also lists the eligibility requirements for licensure to practice Massage Therapy in Georgia.

- (5). You must meet the requirements for licensure as a massage therapist in Georgia to practice the profession in this state. Please refer to the Boards website: www.sos.ga.gov/plb/massage.
- (6). You may verify your license once issued on the site: <https://secure.sos.state.ga.us/myverification/Search.aspx> or check on the status of your application, from the website: https://secure.sos.state.ga.us/plb_appstatus
- (7). E-Mail and/or your physical and mailing address change can be done on the from the link from the website www.sos.ga.gov/plb. You may also mail in the changes to the Board office @ 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA 31217-3858, or fax to (866) 888-7127. O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-14(c) requires licensees notify the Board of any address change within thirty (30) days.
- (8). Please submit your written request along with a copy of a marriage license, divorce decree or other court order identifying the name change via USPS mail or by fax to: (866) 888-7127. A copy of your driver's license or social security card is not acceptable. If you would like a new pocket card, please include your license number and the appropriate fee (see Fee Schedule found in the download forms link on the website). You should receive your new pocket card generally within fifteen (15) business days. Please do not send original documents as they cannot be returned.
- (9). Please write the Board and request a duplicate card. Include your name, address, license number and the appropriate fee (see Fee Schedule found in the download forms link on the website). You should receive your new pocket card within fifteen (15) business days.
- (10). Yes. Twenty-four (24) Contact Hours of Continuing Education (CE) acceptable to the Board are required to be obtained by the expiration date of each biennium renewal period.
 - ❖ Of the twenty-four (24) hours, twelve (12) must be obtained from direct, hands on supervised instruction. The remaining twelve (12) may include

direct hands on supervised instruction or other massage therapy related hours.

NOTE: A massage therapist who received their initial Georgia Massage Therapy License within one year of the expiration date shall only be required to complete twelve (12) Contact Hours of Continuing Education acceptable to the Board.

- ❖ Of the twelve (12) hours, six (6) must be obtained from direct, hands on supervised instruction. The remaining six (6) may include direct hands on supervised instruction or other massage therapy related hours.

**Board Rule 345-4-.02 CE Hours – Effective 03-29-2009*

NOTE: "Hands on" means direct hands on placement or movement on the physical body.

- (11). Fees are subject to change at the Boards discretion. Please refer to the website www.sos.ga.gov/plb/massage, click on the “download forms” selection and open the fee schedule for the current fees. You may also call the Board office @ (478) 207-2440 for information.
- (12). Yes, “the licensee shall display the license certificate or a photocopy thereof in an appropriate and public manner at each location at which he or she practices” -O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-14(a).
- (13). An **ORIGINAL** school transcript requested directly from your massage therapy educational program registrar or other school official. The transcript must be on school or program letterhead, contain the name and contact information of the school or program official certifying the document, the curriculum and hours obtained, and the completion or graduation date. The applicant may include the transcript with their application, or, request the school or program mail the document directly to the Board office:

Georgia Board of Massage Therapy
237 Coliseum Drive
Macon, Georgia 31217-3858

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- (14). Please refer to the Board Rule’s, Chapter 345-8 for the curriculum and faculty requirements and documentation required for a massage therapy education program to be considered for recognition by the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy as meeting the education requirements for licensure. Links to Board rules may be found at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/massage.

- (15). **No, there is no requirement at this time to offer a Georgia Law Exam as a requirement for licensure in this state. Licensees are required, and expected, to be familiar with the laws and rules regulating the practice on massage therapy in the state of Georgia.**
- (16). **Yes. The Board will accept any one of the following exams as one of the requirements for licensure to practice massage therapy in this state:**
- **From the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB):**
 - **National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Massage (NCETM); or,**
 - **National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCETMB): or,**
 - **National Examination for State Licensure (NESL)**
 - **From the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB):**
 - **Massage and Bodywork Licensing Exam (MBLEx)**
- (17). Georgia Board of Massage Therapy
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217-3858
(478) 207-2440 * (866) 888-7127 (Fax)
www.sos.ga.gov/plb/massage
- (18). **No, the Board does not issue temporary or provisional licensure.**
- (19). **Background Checks**

Criminal background checks are required by the law (O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8, 13) for each application submitted. Refer to the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/massage under "Download Forms" for "MT Fingerprint COGENT-GAPS Instructions". Applicants **must register** with Cogent Systems and follow the guidelines found at their website at www.ga.cogentid.com.

***DISCLAIMER: The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy is not responsible for unacceptable or rejected fingerprints submitted; it is the vendor's responsibility to provide acceptable fingerprints.**

For those applicants NOT located/living in the state of GA, the fingerprints and processing must be completed at a Georgia COGENTS/GAPS location.

DO NOT MAIL FINGERPRINT CARDS TO THE BOARD OFFICES-THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU AND THIS WILL DELAY THE PROCESSING OF YOUR APPLCIATION.